(b) if so, the details of the last such visit of the Minister to European nations;

(c) the names and details of the members included in the delegation;

(d) whether media persons were taken alongwith the delegation; and

(e) if so, the details of the names of the journalists who accompanied the delegation alongwith the names of the organizations the journalists represent?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Official visits to Portugal, Ireland, Germany and Italy were undertaken from 01-09 February, 2007 to meet the overseas Indian community. A brief visit on 9th June, 2007 to UK was undertaken on way back after visiting some Caribbean countries.

(c) Shri T.Q. Mohammad, Deputy Secretary (FS) of the Ministry and Shri L. Ramachandran, APS accompanied me during the visit to Portugal, Ireland, Germany and Italy and Shri V.N. Ajayappan, PA, accompanied me on the UK visit.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Indian workers in Middle East

1100. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the crisis faced by lakhs of Indian workers in the Midele East who are facing deportation;

(b) whether it is a fact that lakhs of Indian workers have been declared "illegal migrants";

(c) whether protector of emigrants has enquired into the sudden declaration of lakhs of workers as 'illegal migrants';

(d) whether the issue has been taken up with the concerned Government in those countries; and

(e) the status of the matter and solutions proposed?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Some Middle-East countries from time to time deport foreign workers including Indians due to various reasons. During the year 2007, the number of such workers deported/ECs (Emergency Certificates) issued are as under:

Year	Kuwait	Bahrain	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar
2007 (till Oct. 07)	8234	1481	40088	28904	1086	2050

Such deportation normally are done for workers declared illegal migrants on the grounds of non-possession of valid visas/resident permits, violation of local laws etc.

(d) and (e) The Indian Missions take up the matter with the local authorities for either regularizing the stay of the Indian workers of organize smooth issue of Emergency Certificates for their deportation to India. Further, the complaints of ill treatment, harassment, breach

of contracts etc., received from the Indian workers are also taken up by the Mission with the sponsors/employers, Labour Department and local police authorities for appropriate action.

In order to ensure the protection of rights of Indian workers by the host countries, Government of India has entered into bilateral labour MoUs with the UAE and Kuwait. An Additional protocol has been signed with Qatar. MoUs with Oman and Malaysia have been finalized.

Programme for emigrant workers

1101. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to expand the pre-departure orientation and skill upgradation programme for emigrant workers to all State during this current year;

(b) if so, the financial allocation of the Central Government to the State Governments and expected numbers of beneficiaries, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons for not expanding this programme to all States; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed scheme envisages training of 1.60 lakhs potential emigrants at the per capita cost of Rs. 5000/- over a period of five years (2007—2012). The allocation of the State Governments will depend upon the proposals submitted by them in each financial year, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1.00 crore per annum per State Government;

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Complaints against recruiting agencies

1102. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many complaints against recruiting agencies for overseas job opportunities received during the last year by Government are still pending and still no action has been taken on these complaints; and

(b) if so, the details of the complaints and the reasons for the delay in taking action on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out of the 167 complaints received against the recruiting agencies during 2006, only 8 complaints are pending for final action. These cases are pending for want of further information from the Indian Missions, non-response of the complainants and pending court cases filed by complainants.

Indian household workers abroad

1103. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning a slew of measures for the benefit of Indians